

**From:** Nadolski, Cynthia  
**To:** Miller, Kevin; Margolis, Alan  
**Sent:** 8/9/2013 9:34:15 AM  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Mid-Atlantic Daily Headlines - Thursday, August 8, 2013

Ex. 5 - Attorney Client

**From:** Miller, Kevin  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2013 4:44 PM  
**To:** Nadolski, Cynthia; Margolis, Alan  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Mid-Atlantic Daily Headlines - Thursday, August 8, 2013

Ex. 5 - Attorney Client

Kevin Miller | US EPA | Office of General Counsel | 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW | ARN, Mail Code 2377A | Washington DC 20460 | phone: (202) 564-2691

**From:** Nadolski, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2013 4:26 PM  
**To:** Margolis, Alan  
**Cc:** Miller, Kevin  
**Subject:** FW: EPA Mid-Atlantic Daily Headlines - Thursday, August 8, 2013

Alan.

Ex. 5 - Attorney Client

CN

**From:** Seneca, Roy  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2013 9:55 AM  
**To:** R3 EVERYONE  
**Cc:** Howell, Amie  
**Subject:** EPA Mid-Atlantic Daily Headlines - Thursday, August 8, 2013

# EPA Region III

## Office of Public Affairs

### Mid-Atlantic Headlines

**Thursday, August 8, 2013**

\*\*\* DAILY HOT LIST \*\*\*

#### Agency officials say Congress fails to grasp how sequestration hurts their work

**GREENWIRE** A recent panel of top federal officials painted a grim view of how sequestration is affecting agencies, detailing the challenges in ensuring that critical work gets done when Congress doesn't seem to understand the consequences of across-the-board funding cuts. The Senior Executive Association convened the panel in April, inviting a group of senior executives and professionals who were awarded the 2012 Presidential Distinguished Rank. The award is one of the highest honors given to federal officials. A [paper](#) released today -- and first reported by *Government Executive* -- details the discussion, with executives quoted anonymously to encourage a "candid conversation." Participants came from 10 departments and agencies. The picture that emerges is one of frustration, where managers try to complete necessary work and recruit new talent with one hand tied behind their back. One executive, for example, lamented that she feels as if she has "been given

a really important mission and is encouraged to carry it out -- as long as I don't actually hire anyone, fire anyone, train anyone, travel anywhere, spend any money, ask the same question of at least nine people, award any contracts, or, God forbid, issue any reports."

### Blog: Sen. Boxer opposes Rep. McKinley’s coal ash bill

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE** This [just in](#) from the office of Senate Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.: *In a [letter sent today](#), Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, wrote to Senate colleagues about the serious impact of passing H.R. 2218, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act. The bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from moving forward with protective national standards for toxic coal ash. Of course, this is the legislation championed by Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va., [that was passed last week by the House](#). In [her letter](#) to Senate colleagues, Sen. Boxer writes: "...It is important to note that this bill passed while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing protective national standards, and this bill would prevent EPA from moving forward with these national standards to safeguard the people we represent. We must be mindful of what happened in Kingston, Tennessee in 2008, when a wall failed on a 40-acre coal ash impoundment, releasing over one billion gallons of waste and causing over \$1 billion in cleanup costs. There are over 600 coal waste disposal impoundments across the nation and more than 100 million tons of coal waste are generated each year. Coal waste contains toxic chemicals, such as arsenic, lead, mercury, and selenium, which are known to cancer, harm development and reproduction, and damage the kidneys and lungs — pregnant women and children are especially at risk.*

### EPA Plans Proposed Rule for Summer 2014 to Curb Cross-State Pollution

**BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT** The Environmental Protection Agency plans to release a proposed rule in the summer of 2014 to address air pollution that crosses state lines, the agency told BNA Aug. 7, which could lead to additional emissions controls on power plants and possibly other sources. The regulation would address some of the deficiencies that a federal appeals court cited when it struck down the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule in 2012 by giving states the flexibility to determine how to reduce emissions, a utility industry source who was briefed by EPA on the rule told BNA separately Aug. 7. Although EPA is moving forward with the proposed rule, the agency simultaneously is appealing the case over the cross-state rule, which would have required power plants in 28 states to reduce their emissions. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's decision to strike down the cross-state rule (EPA v. EME Homer City Generation LP, U.S., No. 12-1182, cert granted 6/24/13; [122 DEN A-2, 6/25/13](#)). During a July 30 telephone call with industry representatives, Janet McCabe, EPA acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, said the agency has begun work on the replacement rule because it does not want to be in a position of starting the rulemaking process from scratch if the Supreme Court does not rule in its favor, the utility industry source said. While the Supreme Court is reviewing the case, EPA told BNA it "is continuing its outreach to stakeholders on the transport of emissions across state lines. Since the court vacated the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSPAR) last year, the agency has worked closely with our state partners to consider options for moving forward to address this pollution."

### OP-ED: EPA Must Come Clean on Fracking Contamination

**YAHOO NEWS** (By Kate Sinding, NRDC)) Recently, NRDC learned that regional staff at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produced an internal presentation indicating methane was released during natural gas drilling and "fracking" operations in Dimock, Pa. — resulting in "significant" and possibly long-term damage to the water quality of a drinking-water source for 19 families. That finding emerged in a ground-breaking story by Neela Banerjee on July 27 in the Los Angeles Times, which reported that internal EPA documents detailing local methane contamination were presented to the highest levels of regional agency staff in the spring of 2012. Yet EPA closed its investigation of contaminated drinking water supplies in Dimock just a few months later, declaring that it was no longer necessary for residents to be provided with alternative, safe, drinking-water supplies. As a result of that conclusion, mainstream press have widely reported that EPA has found the water in Dimock "safe" to drink. What's more troubling is that the internal EPA report suggests the agency effectively declared Dimock residents' drinking-water safe despite concerns among EPA consultants and staff that the aquifer had been contaminated by high levels of methane from the Marcellus Shale, resulting in "significant damage to the water quality." So, why would EPA decide to terminate its fracking investigation in Dimock without making public any analysis of the supporting data, while keeping internal dissenting views a secret? And why — a year later — hasn't EPA investigated those views further to determine the true level of risk?

### Report describes Earth's temperatures rising

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** WASHINGTON -- A new massive federal study says the world in 2012 sweltered with continued signs of climate change. Rising sea levels, snow melt, heat buildup in the oceans, and melting Arctic Sea ice and Greenland ice sheets, all broke or nearly broke records, but temperatures only sneaked into the top 10. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday issued a peer-reviewed 260-page report, which agency chief Kathryn Sullivan calls its annual "checking on the pulse of the planet." The report, written by 384 scientists around the world, compiles data already released, but it puts them in context of what's been happening to Earth over decades. "It's critically important to compile a big picture," National Climatic Data Center director Tom Karl says. "The signs that we see are of a warming world." Sullivan says what is noticeable "are remarkable changes in key climate indicators," mentioning dramatic spikes in ocean heat content, a record melt of Arctic sea ice in the summer, and whopping temporary melts of ice in most of Greenland last year. The data also shows a record-high sea level. The most noticeable and startling changes seen were in the Arctic, says report co-editor Deke Arndt, climate monitoring chief at the data center. Breaking records in the Arctic is so common that it is becoming the new normal, says study co-author Jackie Richter-Menge of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H. Karl says when looked at together, all the indicators show a climate that is changing over the decades. Individually, however, the story isn't as simple. Karl says surface temperatures haven't risen in the last 10 years, but he notes that is only a blip in time due to natural variability. When looking at more scientifically meaningful time frames of 30 years, 50 years and more than 100 years, temperatures are rising quite a bit, Karl said. Since records have been kept in 1880, all 10 of the warmest years ever have been in the past 15 years, NOAA records show.

## PENNSYLVANIA

#### ***PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER***

[Work continues on solving dolphin deaths](#) The number of dead or dying dolphins that have washed ashore recently on the New Jersey coast increased to 28 Tuesday morning with the discovery of a "skeletonized" carcass at Holgate. Strandings also are continuing along the coast, from New York to Virginia. In July alone, 91 bottlenose dolphins became stranded along this stretch of coast, "a very significant increase over the norm," said Mendy Garron, who oversees a regional stranding network for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A team of veterinarians, virologists, toxicologists, and other experts is reviewing the data to determine whether the strandings rank as an "unusual mortality event" - a formal designation that would loosen funds for an intensive investigation led by federal authorities. Based on necropsies - the animal version of autopsies - at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, officials know that four of New Jersey's stranded dolphins had pneumonia. One had morbillivirus, an infection related to human measles and canine distemper that has figured in past strandings. But pinpointing an overall cause or causes for the strandings could take

weeks or months, Garron said. July's strandings of bottlenose dolphins numbered 47 in Virginia, seven in Maryland, two in Delaware, 20 in New Jersey, and 15 in New York. Since 1991, officials have declared 59 "unusual mortality events." Causes include ecological factors, infectious diseases, biotoxins, and human interaction, but many remain undetermined. The species most commonly involved are California sea lions, manatees, and bottlenose dolphins. One official mortality event involves the stranding of emaciated dolphins this summer in the Indian River lagoon system along the east coast of Florida. By the end of July, 53 dolphins had been found.

The number of dead or dying dolphins that have washed ashore recently on the New Jersey coast increased to 28 Tuesday morning with the discovery of a "skeletonized" carcass at Holgate. Strandings also are continuing along the coast, from New York to Virginia. In July alone, 91 bottlenose dolphins became stranded along this stretch of coast, "a very significant increase over the norm," said Mendy Garron, who oversees a regional stranding network for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A team of veterinarians, virologists, toxicologists, and other experts is reviewing the data to determine whether the strandings rank as an "unusual mortality event" - a formal designation that would loosen funds for an intensive investigation led by federal authorities. More coverage Dolphin deaths peak in Va. coastal waters Based on necropsies - the animal version of autopsies - at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, officials know that four of New Jersey's stranded dolphins had pneumonia. One had morbillivirus, an infection related to human measles and canine distemper that has figured in past strandings. But pinpointing an overall cause or causes for the strandings could take weeks or months, Garron said. July's strandings of bottlenose dolphins numbered 47 in Virginia, seven in Maryland, two in Delaware, 20 in New Jersey, and 15 in New York. Since 1991, officials have declared 59 "unusual mortality events." Causes include ecological factors, infectious diseases, biotoxins, and human interaction, but many remain undetermined. The species most commonly involved are California sea lions, manatees, and bottlenose dolphins. One official mortality event involves the stranding of emaciated dolphins this summer in the Indian River lagoon system along the east coast of Florida. By the end of July, 53 dolphins had been found. Read more at [http://www.philly.com/philly/news/science/20130807\\_Work\\_continues\\_on\\_solving\\_dolphin\\_deaths.htm#%cSzJH1qOLmCD87P.99](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/science/20130807_Work_continues_on_solving_dolphin_deaths.htm#%cSzJH1qOLmCD87P.99)

**PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

Blog: Range Resources unveils new CNG-powered fleet Range Resources Corp. on Tuesday unveiled its new company fleet of trucks that run on compressed natural gas. The Texas-based oil and gas operator, whose regional headquarters is in Southpointe, said it has about 184 CNG vehicles. Of those, about 100 are in southwestern Pennsylvania. The fleet is a mix of Ram 2500 and Chevrolet Silverado 2500 pick-ups, which were factory-engineered as CNG vehicles. Range joins other Marcellus operators, such as Chesapeake Energy and EQT Corp., who’ve announced a transition in their fleets to CNG. For now, most of the Range trucks here are filling up at Waste Management’s CNG fueling station in Washington, but Range spokesman Mark Windle said the company is considering whether to partner with another firm to build a dedicated station, or to go it alone.

Blog: In face of losses, FirstEnergy announces more cuts FirstEnergy Corp. told investors Tuesday that it will continue to cut costs, including eliminating 250 positions, cutting employee medical and other benefits, and changing pension funding. That's on top of the 380 job cuts already announced as the Akron, Ohio-based company shuts its Hatfield's Ferry and Mitchell coal power plants. The shutdowns in Masontown, Greene County, and in Courtney, Washington County, are expected to come in October. On Tuesday, the energy company reported a net loss of \$164 million, or 39 cents per share, during the second quarter, down from a profit of \$188 million, or 45 cents per share, during the same three months last year. CEO Tony Alexander told analysts on a conference call that the cuts to staffing and benefits are expected to shed \$150 million to \$200 million in operating expenses. Layoffs and voluntary separations could come in the next few months. FirstEnergy indicated in its report it expects to incur about \$3 million in "severance related expenses" in the third quarter. Mr. Alexander also noted about \$375 million will be saved by canceling or delaying capital investments for other generation plants, and he highlighted the company's strategy to lean heavily on its regulated businesses for predictable and strong returns. The largest contributor to FirstEnergy's second quarter loss, at \$339 million, was the company's competitive energy services arm. Meanwhile, its regulated businesses, distribution utilities and transmission operations brought in a combined \$230 million in net income.

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW**

Green Field moves to Monessen Trying to explain his company's clean turbine technology to a Valley crowd is like trying to explain a pierogi to a Louisiana native, jokes Jerry Broussard, Green Field Energy Services senior vice president for operations. But by the end of a ceremony Wednesday to welcome the Lafayette, La., company to Monessen, Broussard was offering to trade gumbo for a King sandwich from the Foster House in North Belle Vernon. Green Field is bringing the city a clean energy technology company that employs 80 people – with growth on the horizon. “The employees they hire are a welcome asset to the city,” Monessen Mayor Mary Jo Smith said. “This is the first step in building a new industry for the community. It brings a new investment in our community. This is the type of thing our community needs to grow. “They don't need to thank Monessen for welcoming them, we need to thank them for choosing Monessen.” State Rep. R. Ted Harhai, D-Monessen, turned to Broussard and exclaimed, “Welcome, welcome, welcome! Thank you, thank you, thank you!” Harhai said Green Field is part of the burgeoning Marcellus shale industry that in places like Monessen is replacing jobs lost to the decline of the steel industry. Broussard said the company has moved in and begun work for a major client. Green Field has grown since its inception in early 2012 with 60 employees. It now employs more than 500 people, mostly in Texas and Louisiana. The Monessen site is its Northeast base. “We are growing as fast as ....,” said Broussard, who hesitated for a second. “We are growing too fast.” Green Field does not merely hire employees, it employs family, Broussard said.

Rostraver out to shut down landfill Despite lacking regulatory power over the Tervita Landfill, the Rostraver Township Board of Commissioners will attempt to persuade the state Department of Environmental Protection to close the site. Surprising both residents and company representatives at a monthly agenda meeting Wednesday, the board unanimously authorized solicitor Al Gaudio to file formal opposition with the DEP to the reissuance of the landfill's operating permit. The resolution also called on the DEP to revoke the company's existing permit and to order immediate closure of the facility. For nearly a year, residents have packed the commissioners' meetings complaining of a stench emanating from the landfill on Tyrol Boulevard. Approximately 50 residents recently filed a civil suit in Westmoreland County Court contending Tervita recklessly operates the facility, which serves as a disposal site for trash and by-products from natural gas drilling. Neighbors began smelling foul odors in August of 2011, according to the suit. One of those residents, Deb Fought, said the board's action Wednesday made her “elated to the point of tears.” “I feel like someone has finally heard what we've had to say,” Fought told the board, adding that water and soil testing could be even more indicative of potential health hazards related to the landfill. “I cannot believe that all five of you supported us tonight,” said resident Cheryl Myers, thanking Commissioners Pat Egros and Gary Beck for “going above and beyond to listen and to care.” After the meeting, Myers said, “Something has happened in the last 10 days, because it's as if a few of the commissioners did a complete 180-degree turn.”

Kittanning-area water plant due for upgrade RAYBURN — The water treatment plant just outside Kittanning along Keystone Boulevard is poised for an upgrade — to the tune of \$3 million — with work expected to begin this month. Pennsylvania American Water made the announcement in a news release Wednesday and said the purpose of the rehabilitation project is to improve water quality and ensure compliance with new regulations set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The project includes upgrades to the building chemical storage and feed facilities and the replacement of the 80-year-old finished water basin, used in the plant's disinfection process. Daniel Hufton, senior production director, said in the release that the upgrades are necessary to improve water service and to meet the new EPA regulations concerning disinfection by-products. "Disinfection by-products are compounds like trihalomethanes that form when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic materials, such as decomposing plant material, in the raw water," said Josephine Posti, external affairs specialist with the utility. "In order to meet the EPA's Stage 2 D/DBP Rule, we are changing the disinfection process to a method that is more stable than chlorine alone and more effective at extending disinfection through the pipelines that distribute water to customers' homes and businesses," she said.

Vandergrift seeks financing to keep treatment plants clear of storm water Vandergrift Council on Monday took another big step on the road to the borough's sewer separation project. The council, with Vern Sciuлло absent, unanimously approved an ordinance that allows it to seek approval from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority (PennVEST) for financing the \$10 million project. Once completed, the project will put the borough in compliance with a federal mandate to separate the combined sanitary and storm sewers. The Environmental Protection Agency and the state's Department of Environmental Protection are pushing municipalities to comply to reduce excessive flow carrying storm water and sewage to the sewage treatment plants. That often results in the plants being overwhelmed by the flow, which is bypassed into streams and rivers. It means council will have the money it needs to pay for the project in the form of a \$2.6 million grant and an \$8.2 million low interest loan. The loan will be for a 30-year term at a 1 percent interest rate. When PennVEST first offered the funding package in April, borough officials hesitated to accept it. They had hoped the funding components would be reversed with the bulk of the package coming in a grant — money that does not have to be repaid — and the rest in a loan.

**YAHOO NEWS**  
OP-ED: EPA Must Come Clean on Fracking Contamination (Op-Ed) (By Kate Sinding, NRDC)) Recently, NRDC learned that regional staff at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produced an internal presentation indicating methane was released during natural gas drilling and "fracking" operations in Dimock, Pa. — resulting in "significant" and possibly long-term damage to the water quality of a drinking-water source for 19 families. That finding emerged in a ground-breaking story by Neela Banerjee on July 27 in the Los Angeles Times, which reported that internal EPA documents detailing local methane contamination were presented to the highest levels of regional agency staff in the spring of 2012. Yet EPA closed its investigation of contaminated drinking water supplies in Dimock just a few months later, declaring that it was no longer necessary for residents to be provided with alternative, safe, drinking-water supplies. As a result of that conclusion, mainstream press have widely reported that EPA has found the water in Dimock "safe" to drink. What's more troubling is that the internal EPA report suggests the agency effectively declared Dimock residents' drinking-water safe despite concerns among EPA consultants and staff that the aquifer had been contaminated by high levels of methane from the Marcellus Shale, resulting in "significant damage to the water quality." So, why would EPA decide to terminate its fracking investigation in Dimock without making public any analysis of the supporting data, while keeping internal dissenting views a secret? And why — a year later — hasn't EPA investigated those views further to determine the true level of risk?

**WILKES BARRE CITIZEN'S VOICE**  
Jessup power plant plan latest since shale boom began The combined-cycle electricity plant proposed for Jessup represents the most efficient technology for producing energy from natural gas and the latest in a number of power projects proposed for the region since natural gas began flowing up from the Marcellus Shale formation. An official from Invenergy LLC went before Jessup Borough Council on Monday to give an overview of the project, still in very preliminary stages. The company was requesting a change in the borough's noise ordinance. The power plant, which would employ about two dozen people and cost \$500 million to build, would be on the east side of the Casey Highway near the end of Sunnyside Road. In a combined-cycle power plant, electricity is generated from fuel two times. First, the natural gas is burned, and that combustion turns a turbine to generate electricity. The hot exhaust from that step is captured to boil water, the steam of which is used to turn another turbine. "We are seeing more of these sorts of plants proposed because of the economics of natural gas and the strides in technology," said Jacob G. Smeltz, executive director of the Electric Power Generation Association, a Pennsylvania trade group. Gas-powered electricity plants are less expensive to build, the technology has gotten more efficient, and they have fewer environmental hurdles than coal or nuclear plants, Mr. Smeltz said. Also, natural gas prices are low - for the near future. Combined-cycle plants require water, but much of the water is re-used, getting boiled and condensed over and over. In the process, plants can use either municipal water or fresh water. Improved pollution control and emission controls, along with the rise of natural gas as fuel in the generation fleet, has driven down emissions related to power generation in the state. Since 2000, sulfur dioxide emission fell 75 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions are down 40 percent, Mr. Smeltz said.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS (PA)**  
Range Resources purchases 180 natural gas vehicles CANONSBURG, Pa. (AP) - Range Resources Corp. has purchased 180 natural gas powered vehicles to serve operations in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and other states. The Fort Worth, Texas-based gas drilling company says in a Wednesday release that it purchased Chevrolet Silverado 2500 and Ram 2500 pickup trucks from the manufacturers. The vehicles cost more than conventional ones but since compressed natural gas sells for about half the price of gasoline, Range says the fuel savings will pay back the cost in about two years. The CNG vehicles also emit less pollution. Mark Karney, the Alternative Fuels Director for General Motors, says the company expects demand for CNG vehicles to grow as more vehicle styles are offered. Range says about 100 of the CNG vehicles are located in Pennsylvania. CANONSBURG, Pa. (AP) - Range Resources Corp. has purchased 180 natural gas powered vehicles to serve operations in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and other states. The Fort Worth, Texas-based gas drilling company says in a Wednesday release that it purchased Chevrolet Silverado 2500 and Ram 2500 pickup trucks from the manufacturers. The vehicles cost more than conventional ones but since compressed natural gas sells for about half the price of gasoline, Range says the fuel savings will pay back the cost in about two years. The CNG vehicles also emit less pollution. Mark Karney, the Alternative Fuels Director for General Motors, says the company expects demand for CNG vehicles to grow as more vehicle styles are offered. Range says about 100 of the CNG vehicles are located in Pennsylvania. Read more at [http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/20130807\\_ap\\_8dcb16c16d07451298649969d20b683c.html#eY3dwh0hLGCpmO9i.99](http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/20130807_ap_8dcb16c16d07451298649969d20b683c.html#eY3dwh0hLGCpmO9i.99)

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## DELAWARE

**WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL**  
Acid spill empties Dogfish Head brewery for hours **MILTON** — Delaware’s off-centered brewery had an off-schedule chemical leak on Wednesday, but it caused no injuries. Dogfish Head Craft Brewery’s employees were evacuated after a 300-gallon tank of nitric acid in a warehouse area started leaking. The chemical, which is used to clean equipment in the brewery, can scald skin and cause respiratory distress. Joseph P. Hopple, a spokesman with Sussex County Emergency Medical Services, said the incident was reported at 2:20 p.m., and the Milton Fire Department was the first to respond. Six Dogfish employees who were near the spill were examined and decontaminated, but none had any signs of injury, Hopple said. “None of them were exposed directly to the chemical,” he said. Dogfish founder Sam Calagione, in a statement posted online, apologized to customers who were in the tasting room and bar and were ushered out after the spill. He said the brewery tours would be rescheduled. “Out of an abundance of caution and with some great guidance from our safety team, we evacuated the entire building,” his statement said. The spill happened in one of the older parts of the brewery, not in areas of an ongoing expansion. The chemical leak occurred many yards away from the tasting room, bar and food truck that are open to the public. As a precaution, a nearby pool and clubhouse in the Cannery Village neighborhood also were evacuated, Hopple said. The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control also responded along with the police and the Delaware Fire School. By 4:10 p.m., Hopple said, DNREC had confirmed no more acid was being released from the tank, and some of the emergency crews started leaving the scene.

**DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE**

Chemical leaks at Dogfish Head in Milton Workers at Milton's Dogfish Head brewery discovered a 300-gallon tank was leaking nitric acid about 2:20 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7. The Milton Fire Department was dispatched and called for the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. "DNREC has made entry found that the leak is contained," said Joseph P. Hopple, public information officer for Sussex County EMS. "We evaluated six workers who were in the area of the leak; none of them had any complaints of injury, but they have been decontaminated along with the entry team." The spill was declared under control about 4:02 p.m. Everyone within a 500-foot radius of the spill has been evacuated, Hopple said. An extensive cleanup effort is continuing at the site. Hopple said the nitric acid is used as a cleaning agent at the brewery. It is considered a weaker acid, but exposure could lead to respiratory symptoms and chemical burns if it interacts with skin. Also responding to the scene were Delaware State Police, Milton Police and the Delaware Fire School.

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## WEST VIRGINIA

### **CHARLESTON GAZETTE**

Blog: Sen. Boxer opposes Rep. McKinley’s coal ash bill This just in from the office of Senate Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.: *In a letter sent today, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, wrote to Senate colleagues about the serious impact of passing H.R. 2218, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act. The bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from moving forward with protective national standards for toxic coal ash. Of course, this is the legislation championed by Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va., that was passed last week by the House. In her letter to Senate colleagues, Sen. Boxer writes: ...It is important to note that this bill passed while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing protective national standards, and this bill would prevent EPA from moving forward with these national standards to safeguard the people we represent. We must be mindful of what happened in Kingston, Tennessee in 2008, when a wall failed on a 40-acre coal ash impoundment, releasing over one billion gallons of waste and causing over \$1 billion in cleanup costs. There are over 600 coal waste disposal impoundments across the nation and more than 100 million tons of coal waste are generated each year. Coal waste contains toxic chemicals, such as arsenic, lead, mercury, and selenium, which are known to cancer, harm development and reproduction, and damage the kidneys and lungs — pregnant women and children are especially at risk.*

West Virginia Coal Association elects new officers CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Members of the West Virginia Coal Association have elected officers for the 2013-14 term. Those elected to the executive committee were: Re-elected as chairman of the board of directors, Jim Laurita; 1st vice chairman, Kevin Crutchfield; 2nd vice chairman, Jimmy Brock; secretary, Charles Snavely; treasurer, Andrew Jordon; assistant treasurer, Ben Hatfield; associate division chairman, Tim McClean; member at large general membership, Jimmy Bun and Warren Hylton; and member at large, associate membership, Pat Graney. Immediate past chairman is Gary White. Bill Raney remains as WVCA president and is joined by Chris Hamilton as senior vice president and Jason Bostic as vice president. Re-elected to serve on the board of directors were (elected for a three-year term) were: General members: Jim Bunn II, Kevin Crutchfield, Ben Hatfield, Andrew Jordon, Dave Thomas, Dave Webb and Gary White. Associate members: Nick Carter, Chris Supcoe and Wayne Thomas.

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## MARYLAND

### **BALTIMORE SUN**

Blog: A bid to clean the air with algae Howard Co. startup is trying to prove that its algae bioreactors are an answer to greenhouse-gas pollution. The 10-foot-tall cylinders glow neon yellow and orange, looking like something out of a futuristic dance club. They're actually an experiment with global implications — an effort to see how well algae can wipe out pollution belched by power plants.

Humpback whales spotted off coast of Ocean City The ocean is full of life and if you're lucky you get to see it when you visit the shore. Some parasailers in Ocean City got very lucky last Sunday when they spotted a humpback whale playing in the water below them.

### **MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS**

WSSC opens discussion on new water intake project The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission held the first public meeting on Thursday on a proposal to construct an offshore intake for the water supply at the Potomac Water Filtration Plant. The meeting was held in an open house format at Potomac Elementary School, with posters around the room describing the purpose of the project, the anticipated environmental impact and photos of the current water intake site. Several representatives of WSSC, the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the project team were available to answer questions. WSSC has a water intake along the shore of the Potomac River, just below where Watts Branch flows into the river near the water filtration plant now, but would like to replace it with an offshore submerged channel intake. Debris gets in the part of the river where the current intake is, said Jerry Irvine, public affairs manager for WSSC. "There are more contaminants there than in the middle [of the river]," he said. Almost three quarters of the water used by WSSC customers in Montgomery and Prince George's counties comes from the Potomac Water Filtration Plant, according to a press release from the C&O Canal National Historical Park, which runs between the plant and the river. The new intake will not increase the amount of water taken from the river; WSSC is seeking higher quality source water, the release said. Thursday's meeting was a "scoping meeting," said Suzanne Boltz, a senior scientist with EA Engineering, Science, and Technology Inc., who is working with WSSC.

Climate change town hall encourages individual action About 500 residents, politicians and activists showed support for climate-change policies at an Organizing For Action town hall last week at the Silver Spring Civic Center. "Cleaner air leads to healthier families," said Neeta Datt, the county director of OFA. The nearly four-hour meeting was the first in a month of action for OFA, a nonprofit that supports President Barack Obama's agenda. Speakers focused on the president's plan, but also encouraged action on an individual level. "Climate change is the most important issue in our generation," said Donald Boesch, the president of the Center for Environmental Science at the University of Maryland. "We have a special responsibility and opportunity to lead." Pushing for more clean energy in the state has the potential to create jobs, Boesch said. "We don't need to invent anything, all we need is more policy," said Mike Tidwell, the director of Chesapeake Climate Change Action Network. "The fossil-fuel industry is allowed to treat our atmosphere as a sewer." Because of climate change, cases of asthma and heart attacks are increasing in the U.S., said Cindy Parker, an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins who is on the board of directors for Physicians for Social Responsibility. "Health is the only thing that has the potential to engage everyone across the political spectrum on climate change," she said. "Everyone cares about their health, their family's health and their neighbor's health." Katherine Magruder, the executive director of the Maryland Clean Energy Center, encouraged people to share books they're reading about environmental topics with people who are doubtful of climate change. Datt told residents to send letters to the editor to local newspapers and call their representatives to push climate change legislation.

Energy efficiency inspection available for low-income homeowners Low-income homeowners or owners of small multifamily rental properties may qualify for a state energy-conservation program. The EmPower Low Income Energy Efficiency

Program is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. For homes that are eligible, an energy audit inspection will be scheduled to identify which improvements will suit the property. Improvements include attic insulation, high-efficiency lightbulbs, hot water system insulation and furnace cleaning.

## VIRGINIA

### **NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT**

17-pound, 6-ounce Frankenfish in Va. is world record SPOTSYLVANIA-- A 17-pound, 6-ounce northern snakehead snagged by a Virginia man has been certified a world record catch of the invasive species some call "Frankenfish." The monster was hauled in by Caleb Newton in Aquia Creek on June 1. The International Game Fish Association confirmed the record catch, The Free Lance-Star reported Wednesday. It beat a 17-pound, 4-ounce snakehead caught in Japan in 2004. "His record has been approved and we'll be sending the certificate later this week, or early next week," said Jack Vitek, world-record coordinator for the Florida-based IGFA. Newton, 27, was fishing with a friend in a tournament when he hooked the monster. "It took me about a minute to get it in the boat," the Spotsylvania County plumber said after the catch. The 3-foot-long fish barely fit in his cooler. The snakehead is native to China, Korea and Russia. It can breathe air, survive on land and adapt and thrive in foreign environments. It was first discovered in a Maryland pond in 2002 and since then has spread into several Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Some have dubbed it "Frankenfish" for its fearsome appearance and adaptability.

### **CHARLOTTELVILLE DAILY PROGRESS**

Remediation of chemicals at shuttered Albemarle aviation plant could take decades (Aug. 5) Environmental experts say it could be years — even decades — before federal regulators can effectively remediate a toxic contamination at a shuttered plant site in Earlysville. “Unfortunately these things always take a long time,” Stephen Lester, science director at the Center for Health, Environment & Justice, said Monday. “We work with groups where cleanups are 10, 15 years in the making. Then you factor in monitoring after that and you have some groups that are engaged with these sites for 20 years.” Today, the federal Environmental Protection Agency is in the early stages of an 18-month investigation at the site, looking into the discharge of PCE, a known carcinogen, among four other pollutants. But, according to Lester, remediation should have been pursued in 2007 when the plant’s current owner Avionics Specialties, Inc. first discovered the chemicals at the site and in the neighboring Walnut Hill subdivision. “Concerns of risk and exposure need to be addressed immediately,” Lester said from his office in Falls Church. “The initial discussions were, ‘What was the best approach to get the property remediated as quickly as possible?’” Douglas Hillman, president and CEO of Avionics’ parent company Aerosonic Corporation, said Monday.

### **FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR**

City council pulls proposed power plant from agenda Fredericksburg City Council pulled consideration of a waste-to-energy proposal from its Tuesday agenda after learning the Stafford County Board of Supervisors is reconsidering the matter, Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw said Wednesday. City Council will postpone discussion of the Energy Extraction Partners power plant until the Aug. 27 meeting, Greenlaw said. She began hearing concerns about the project on July 8, the day before the city’s public hearing on the issue. Since then, residents, most of whom live in Stafford, have continued contacting council members with questions and information. The council gave preliminary approval of the plan in a 6–0 vote on July 9, but Greenlaw said that action simply allowed members to continue considering it. A final vote is required to move it forward. Council members Matt Kelly and George Solley said before the item was pulled from the agenda that they supported delaying action to continue considering the issues that had been raised. Councilman Brad Ellis said he had a few questions remaining but supported the concept based on what he knew about the science. Ellis and Kelly also wanted to carefully review the financial side of the proposal. Council members agreed that waste-to-energy options are important to the future of the landfill and the environment but weren’t yet sure whether to support the EEP proposal. Public concerns have focused on the environmental impact of the process EEP would use to produce electric power from solid waste, and the increased truck traffic on Eskimo Hill Road to bring additional tires to the facility.

Waste plan finds few fans A new Stafford watchdog group is questioning the approval process for a waste-to-energy facility at the regional landfill, particularly the import of up to 10 truckloads of tires per day. Stafford Citizens for Open Government drew about 40 people to England Run Library Monday afternoon to discuss the proposed \$73 million privately financed project that could start operating by the end of 2014.

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS (VA.)**

Virginia Beach sand replenishment project completed VIRGINIA BEACH — A \$12 million beach replenishment project has been completed at Virginia Beach. The Virginia Pilot reports the project had disrupted beach-goers and annoyed some homeowners, but city engineer Phill Roehers says all the heavy equipment should be off the beach soon. Virginia Beach and the U.S. Corps of Engineers teamed up on the project to widen the beach between 15th and 70th streets. The work was supposed to be finished by Memorial Day but city officials say it was delayed when a contractor sent a dredging vessel to another job. The city split the project’s cost with the federal government, picking up 35 percent of the tab. Sand replenishment projects are designed to buffer the shoreline against storms to protect homes and businesses.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **NRDC BLOG**

More calls on EPA to reopen Dimock fracking investigation In the aftermath of an illuminating story in the LA Times last week that revealed that staff at the Environmental Protection Agency believed that there was evidence that fracking activities in Dimock, PA had caused "significant damage" to water quality, calls are mounting for EPA to reopen its investigation. As I blogged previously, although this interpretation of the data was presented to the highest level staff in the region in the spring of last year, EPA subsequently - and without explanation - closed its investigation into water quality concerns in Dimock and ceased deliveries of temporary drinking water to residents. (The presentation itself is now available online here.) Now, the Scranton Times-Tribune - headquartered in the heart of northeastern Pennsylvania’s shale country - has joined NRDC and others in calling on EPA to reopen its investigation "and use all of the technology at its disposal" to answer the question whether, as the staff presentation speculates, drilling and/or fracking itself contaminated drinking water in Dimock. This is, after all, the key question that EPA’s on-going national fracking study is intended to address. Not to mention that federal regulators owe it to the people in this beleaguered community to give them a comprehensive and complete investigation. At the very least, the agency owes the public a valid explanation why it decided to terminate its inquiry. Meantime, as was widely reported yesterday, new details emerged about the now-infamous Hallowich case, indicating that the gas industry’s well-known efforts to silence its victims reached new lows when Range Resources imposed a lifetime ban on the family’s 7- and 10-year-old children from discussing fracking. Although now disclaimed by the company, the ban was evidently a part of its secret settlement with the children’s parents over serious allegations of contamination and health impacts from its neighboring fracking activities. Some of the terms of that settlement have come to light following the Pittsburgh Post Gazette’s on-going efforts to compel their disclosure.

Willie Nelson Against Mountaintop Removal Mining Willie Nelson opposes mountaintop removal coal mining, and this week NRDC released a video of his iconic song America the Beautiful that was donated by Willie to help draw attention to this

extreme form of coal mining. Despite [the shift by 130 U.S. power plants away from coal](#), mountaintop removal mining continues to ravish Appalachian communities. Willie, whom Emmylou Harris called “The Voice of America,” turned 80 this year and this video underscores Willie’s life-long commitment to so many important community preservation causes. With the release of this video, Willie joins [many other music artists speaking out against MTR](#), including Emmylou Harris, Dave Mathews, Sheryl Crow, Ashley Judd, Kathy Matea, Kenny Alpin and others.

***BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT***

[EPA Plans Proposed Rule for Summer 2014 to Curb Cross-State Pollution](#) The Environmental Protection Agency plans to release a proposed rule in the summer of 2014 to address air pollution that crosses state lines, the agency told BNA Aug. 7, which could lead to additional emissions controls on power plants and possibly other sources. The regulation would address some of the deficiencies that a federal appeals court cited when it struck down the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule in 2012 by giving states the flexibility to determine how to reduce emissions, a utility industry source who was briefed by EPA on the rule told BNA separately Aug. 7. Although EPA is moving forward with the proposed rule, the agency simultaneously is appealing the case over the cross-state rule, which would have required power plants in 28 states to reduce their emissions. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit’s decision to strike down the cross-state rule (EPA v. EME Homer City Generation LP, U.S., No. 12-1182, cert granted 6/24/13; [122 DEN A-2, 6/25/13](#)). During a July 30 telephone call with industry representatives, Janet McCabe, EPA acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, said the agency has begun work on the replacement rule because it does not want to be in a position of starting the rulemaking process from scratch if the Supreme Court does not rule in its favor, the utility industry source said. While the Supreme Court is reviewing the case, EPA told BNA it “is continuing its outreach to stakeholders on the transport of emissions across state lines. Since the court vacated the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSPAR) last year, the agency has worked closely with our state partners to consider options for moving forward to address this pollution.”

[Dingell Seeks Obama’s Help in Air Act Rewrite for Greenhouse Gases](#) The Clean Air Act is not the most effective tool to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and should be updated to address climate change, according to Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), who shepherded the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 through Congress. Dingell, in a [letter](#) to President Obama provided to BNA Aug. 7, called on the administration to convene meetings with “reasonable representatives” of the power industry as well as congressional leaders to discuss how the Clean Air Act could be updated to tackle greenhouse gases. “We have before us an important opportunity to supplant and render irrelevant the heated, accusatory rhetoric that has accompanied the issue of climate change up to this point,” Dingell said in his letter, dated July 23. “The administration and members of both parties in Congress must encourage rational conversations that recognize the importance of environmental stewardship while acknowledging that we must have an affordable and reliable energy strategy.” Obama has signaled his intent to use the Clean Air Act to address greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. He ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to repropose carbon dioxide new source performance standards for new fossil fuel-fired power plants under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act by Sept. 20 as part of a climate plan announced June 25 ([123 DEN A-1, 6/26/13](#)). Dingell said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and her predecessor, Lisa Jackson, have both acknowledged that the Clean Air Act “as currently constituted and implemented is not the most effective way to regulate greenhouse gases, and legislation to address specifically greenhouse gas emissions is far more preferable.”

[EPA to Clarify Affordability Metrics for Water Act Compliance Obligations](#) SANTA FE, N.M.—The Environmental Protection Agency plans to issue in early 2014 a document clarifying how communities can assess their financial capability to meet Clean Water Act obligations, an agency official told a water conference. Deborah Nagle, director of EPA’s water permits division, was responding Aug. 6 to a query by state officials at the annual meeting of the Association of Clean Water Administrators, which ran Aug. 4-7. At a panel discussion on the agency’s integrated planning framework, Walt Baker, director of the Utah Division of Water Quality and a past ACWA president, asked Nagle about the clarification for guidance outlining a community’s ability to afford compliance with Clean Water Act obligations. EPA in January promised the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the municipally owned wastewater industry that it would clarify the circumstances and factors that a community can use as a measure of its ability to afford Clean Water Act projects

[Boxer Urges Senators to Reject Coal Ash Bill Passed by House](#) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) called on senators Aug. 7 to reject House-passed legislation on coal ash that would give states the lead role in implementing minimum federal standards for the management of coal ash generated by power plants while allowing the Environmental Protection Agency a regulatory role if necessary. In a “Dear Colleague” [letter](#), Boxer said the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act (H.R. 2218) does not adequately protect human health and the environment as drafted. “I will oppose this bill at every turn, because if it became law, coal ash would continue to pose a grave threat to public health and safety,” Boxer wrote. The California Democrat, who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, also said EPA told her it did not support the version of the legislation as drafted, despite claims from House Republicans that the agency did not oppose the bill. EPA confirmed to BNA Aug. 7 that the Obama administration does not support the legislation as drafted. Boxer also expressed concerns the legislation would block EPA from being able to complete its rulemaking process on the management of coal ash, a residue from coal-fired power plants. “It is important to note that this bill passed while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing protective national standards, and this bill would prevent EPA from moving forward with these national standards to safeguard the people we represent,” Boxer wrote. EPA has proposed regulating the material under the hazardous waste provisions of Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or as a nonhazardous waste material under Subtitle D of RCRA. Coal ash is currently considered an exempt waste.

[EPA Denies Petition to Ban Chemical Used to Fluoridate Drinking Water](#) EPA denies a petition asking it to ban the use of a fluoridation agent in drinking water. The petition from a group of American University students, alumni, and faculty asks the agency to use authority provided by Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act to ban the use of hydrofluorosilicic acid to fluoridate drinking water. According to the petition, the chemical introduces arsenic, lead, and radionuclides into drinking water and is a “waste by-product” of the phosphate fertilizer manufacturing industry

***GREENWIRE***

[AIR POLLUTION: EPA hints at cross-state rule revisions](#) U.S. EPA is offering new details about its plans to rework a rule regulating harmful emissions that cross state lines even as the Supreme Court reviews the rule. The Supreme Court this term is set to consider a lower court ruling that threw out the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which applied to 28 Eastern states in trying to limit interstate drift. EPA has said it is working on a new program in light of the legal challenges. Acting air chief Janet McCabe confirmed to industry officials in a stakeholder outreach call last week that the new rule on interstate transport was set to be released next year, likely after the Supreme Court decision. McCabe said the revisions could coincide with EPA regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants, according to a utility official on the call. "It was a helpful courtesy call ... to say that with everyone anticipating the Supreme Court decision, [EPA is] not sitting back and waiting," the official said. "They wanted to make sure we know they're proceeding." The agency confirmed that it was planning to release a proposed rule next summer and that stakeholder outreach was ongoing in the interim to determine how to address interstate emissions.

[Agency officials say Congress fails to grasp how sequestration hurts their work](#) A recent panel of top federal officials painted a grim view of how sequestration is affecting agencies, detailing the challenges in ensuring that critical work gets done when Congress doesn’t seem to understand the consequences of across-the-board funding cuts. The Senior Executive Association convened the panel in April, inviting a group of senior executives and professionals who were awarded the 2012 Presidential Distinguished Rank. The award is one of the highest honors given to federal officials. A [paper](#) released today -- and first reported by *Government Executive* -- details the discussion, with executives quoted anonymously to encourage a "candid conversation." Participants came from 10 departments and agencies. The picture that emerges is one of frustration, where managers try to complete necessary work and recruit new talent with one hand tied behind their back. One executive, for example, lamented that she feels as if she has "been given a really important mission and is encouraged to carry it out -- as long as I don't actually hire anyone, fire anyone, train anyone, travel anywhere, spend any money, ask the same question of at least nine people, award any contracts, or, God forbid, issue any reports."

EPA: Top Democrat objects after subpoena is issued for agency's air regs data Last week's quarrel between the top Democrat and Republican on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee over the subpoenaing of confidential health studies used to develop many of U.S. EPA's air-quality regulations has spilled into the August recess. Although EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy was served with the subpoena Friday, panel ranking member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) continued to voice her objections yesterday. "I implore you again to stop what you are doing," Johnson wrote panel Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) in a letter yesterday. "The actions you are taking are wrong. You are abusing Congressional power to harass the EPA Administrator. You are undermining our legitimate scientific research enterprise." Republicans have demanded that EPA provide data from cohort studies by the American Cancer Society and Harvard Six Cities on PM 2.5 -- or particulate matter that is less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter -- and ozone pollution that have been used in revisions of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, or NAAQS.

CLIMATE: Dingell urges Obama to avoid using Clean Air Act to curb carbon The House's senior Democrat has advised President Obama to scrap his plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act, urging him instead to focus on helping Congress pass climate change legislation. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), chairman emeritus of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and a leading author of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, said in a letter to the president dated July 31 that the law was ill-suited to regulate carbon dioxide. "It has been said over and over again, by nearly everybody, including former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and newly confirmed EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy that the Clean Air Act as currently constituted and implemented is not the most effective way to regulate greenhouse gases, and legislation to address specifically greenhouse gas emissions is far more preferable," Dingell said. "I couldn't agree more." Dingell, who voted for the comprehensive climate change legislation that cleared the House in 2009 only to die in the Senate, said the age of congressional compromise on environmental and energy legislation has not passed.He suggested that Obama seek "high-level meetings between reasonable representatives of the energy industry, including fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewable sources, as well as congressional leaders on both side of the aisle." The aim of these meetings, he said, would be to craft legislation that would promote an "all of the above" energy mix while reducing emissions.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Report describes Earths temperatures rising WASHINGTON -- A new massive federal study says the world in 2012 sweltered with continued signs of climate change. Rising sea levels, snow melt, heat buildup in the oceans, and melting Arctic Sea ice and Greenland ice sheets, all broke or nearly broke records, but temperatures only sneaked into the top 10. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday issued a peer-reviewed 260-page report, which agency chief Kathryn Sullivan calls its annual "checking on the pulse of the planet." The report, written by 384 scientists around the world, compiles data already released, but it puts them in context of what's been happening to Earth over decades. "It's critically important to compile a big picture," National Climatic Data Center director Tom Karl says. "The signs that we see are of a warming world." Sullivan says what is noticeable "are remarkable changes in key climate indicators," mentioning dramatic spikes in ocean heat content, a record melt of Arctic sea ice in the summer, and whopping temporary melts of ice in most of Greenland last year. The data also shows a record-high sea level. The most noticeable and startling changes seen were in the Arctic, says report co-editor Deke Arndt, climate monitoring chief at the data center. Breaking records in the Arctic is so common that it is becoming the new normal, says study co-author Jackie Richter-Menge of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H. Karl says when looked at together, all the indicators show a climate that is changing over the decades. Individually, however, the story isn't as simple. Karl says surface temperatures haven't risen in the last 10 years, but he notes that is only a blip in time due to natural variability. When looking at more scientifically meaningful time frames of 30 years, 50 years and more than 100 years, temperatures are rising quite a bit, Karl said. Since records have been kept in 1880, all 10 of the warmest years ever have been in the past 15 years, NOAA records show.